

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6578

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7148

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE - ATMOSPHERICS

1. PROCEEDINGS AT LIMA RESEMBLE THOSE OF A SECRET FRATERNITY OR CLUB. THE MEMBERSHIP IS NOT VERY EXCLUSIVE AND ENTRANCE REQUIRMENTS ARE FLEXIBLE, BUT ONLY THOSE ADMITTED TO THE RANKS OF THE NON-ALIGNED ARE PRIVY TO NAC SECRETS WHICH INCLUDE OFFICIAL NAC WORKING DOCUMENTS. SECURITY IS TIGHT AT THE CONFERENCE. NO ONE BUT NON-ALIGNED MEMBER -DELEGATES ARE ADMITTED TO THE SESSIONS OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEES. OBSERVERS AND INVITED COUNTRIES ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THOSE SEEKING FULL NON-ALIGNED MEMBERSHIP. (MEXICO IS AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE. MEXICAN DELEGATES TOLD EMBASSY THAT MEXICO HAS NO INTENTION OF JOINING THE NON-ALIGNED AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA IS HERE ONLY BECAUSE OF PERSONAL APPEAL OF FONMIN DE LA FLOR AND TO PUSH MEXICAN CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES.) INVITED COUNTRIES ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OBSERVE CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS, BUT DECISION MADE BEFORE NAC OPENING RESTRICTED THEM TO PLENARY SESSIONS ONLY WITH NO RIGHT TO CONFERENCE WORKING DOCUMENTS. AT ONE POINT COUNTRY PLATES WERE REMOVED FROM DESKS OF INVITEES AT THE PLENARY SESSION, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PRESmise BEING THAT AS INVITEE, COUNTRY X WAS NOT REALLY

REPRESENTED AT THE NAC. INVITED DELEGATES PROTESTED AND IDENTITY PLATES WERE REPLACED. SOME FEEL THE INSPIRATION FOR RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS AND INVITEES CAME FROM THE INDIANS, WHO WISHED TO ENSURE THE EXCLUSION OF PAKISTAN FROM ANY CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS (PAKISTAN HAD SOUGHT TO SIT IN ON ECONOMIC COMMITTEE).

2. BECAUSE OF SECRETIVE NATURE OF DELIBERATIONS AND LACK OF ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION, JOURNALISTS HAVE TERMED THIS A MOST FRUSTRATING CONFERENCE TO COVER. EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM THIS SENSE OF FRUSTRATION. NEW GOP PRESS AGENCY --ESI-ANDINA--IS PRODUCING LESS-THAN-VOLUMINOUS AND OFTEN POOR-QUALITY PRESS RELEASES. AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS SUCH AS ONE OF FONMIN DE LA FLOR OFFERED TUESDAY EVENING, LIQUOR FLOWED FREELY BUT INFORMATION DID NOT. AS ONE NAC INVITEE PUT IT, "CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE AS TIGHT AS OYSTERS." AS ADDITIONAL PROBLEM IS NAC PROCEDURE OF APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS WHICH MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR MEASURES OR TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS. CONSENSUS MAY APPEAR TO ENHANCE THE IMPRESSION OF UNITY AND IT CERTAINLY REDUCES DEGREE OF ACCOUNTABILITY ON CONTROVERSIAL MEASURES.

3. CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS ARE CONFUSING. EMBASSY REPORTED CREATION AND APPARENT DEMISE OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. THIS IS TYPICAL OF ENERGY EXPENDED IN DANCING AROUND THE ISSUE ITSELF. WE ARE TOLD THAT PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE DOES NOT REIGN. IN WORKING COMMITTEE SESSIONS THOSE DIFFERING WITH SPEECHES ARE SAID TO ATTEMPT TO SHOUT SPEAKER DOWN RATHER THAN TO SEEK THE FLOOR. ACRIMONIOUS WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AT ONE POINT PRODUCED AN EXODUS OF DELEGATES WHO RETURNED TO HOTEL ROOMS DISGUSTED WITH PROCEEDINGS. THAT EVENING ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PERHAPS DECIDED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ISSUES AND WEDNESDAY SESSION FINALLY BROKE UP AT 7:00 A.M. THURSDAY. ALL-NIGHT SESSION APPARENTLY DID, HOWDVER, COME CLOSE TO PRODUCING A FINAL ECONOMIC DOCUMENT.

4. A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THIS THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE (AND PERHAPS OF OTHERS AS WELL) HAS BEEN AFRICAN RESENTMENT OF ATTEMPTS OF ARABS AND SOME ASIAN MEMBERS (INDO-CHINA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FRIENDS) TO FORCE HASTY DECISIONS UPON THE NAC. KOREAN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, WHICH WAS FORCED THROUGH AS NAC OPENED, WAS A CASE IN POINT. THIS AFRICAN RESENTMENT SEEMS TO BE HELPING ISRAELIS ON EXPULSION ISSUE (SYRIANS TRIED TO RAM THEIR RESOLUTION THROUGH) AND WILL NO DOUBT AFFECT FINAL OUTCOME IN OTHER AREAS. WHETHER RELATED TO AFRICAN RESENTMENT OR PERSONAL PROCLIVITIES, EMBASSY IS AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE FAIRLY-PROMINENT AFICAN DELEGATE WHO WENT TO CUZCO WITH

CONFERENCE AT MID-POINT.

5. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE OF CONTROVERSY AND SOME CONFUSION, PERU HAS BEEN ACTING AS MEDIATOR AND SEEMS TO BE CARRYING OUT MORE INFLUENTIAL ROLE THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED. THE DRAFT "DOCUMENT OF LIMA", FOR EXAMPLE, CONTAINS HEAVY PERUVIAN INPUT AND IS WORKING PAPER FROM WHICH FINAL NAC CONCLUSIONS ARE BEING DRAWN.

6. CONFERENCE WAS SCHEDULED TO END AT NOON ON FRIDAY, BUT GOP AMBASSADOR MARIATEGUI TOLD PRESS THURSDAY NIGHT THAT FRIDAY'S DEBATES MAY GO INTO SATURDAY MORNING, IN WHICH CASE NAC CLOCK WOULD BE STOPPED AT MIDNIGHT FRIDAY.
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